

Lewis Is a "Stall," Will Soon Drop Out, Bennett Asserts

Declares Attorney General Will Quit the Race for Governor

Hints Aid to Whitman

Politicians Expect Former State Senator May Himself Be a Candidate

"Merton E. Lewis, who has announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Governor, is a 'stall,' and before the canvass is over he will drop out in favor of some one else. The people then will realize that a vote for Lewis is half a vote for Whitman," said William M. Bennett, former State Senator, who defeated Mayor Mitchell in the Republican primaries last fall, at his office yesterday. "The Attorney General," Mr. Bennett continued, "judging from what he said in to-day's papers about his platform, has thought of all the reactionary things in politics and is going to stand for them. A Republican in order to be successful against Whitman has got to be for direct nominations, for equal suffrage, and he has got to be against Governor Whitman's socialistic tendencies, namely, to have the state fix prices and to put the state into competition with private business. No one who does not stand for the above will have the support of the farmers, the business men and the new women voters."

Farmers Believe in Lewis
Mr. Bennett's flat charge that the Attorney General's candidacy, made a focal point for the race, was with half a dozen of the more prominent anti-Whitman leaders of the state, is a sham, and that he will withdraw before the primary canvass is over in order to make room for some one else. Of some other candidate, doubtless will provoke sharp answers from the supporters of the Attorney General, who credit him with a sincere intention to make a vigorous fight in the primaries for the Republican nomination. As already set forth in The Tribune, the Republicans of Rochester credit the Attorney General with an intention to make the run. The Monroe County Republican organization on Friday last met and formally indorsed the candidacy of Governor Whitman, fully aware that the Attorney General's friends in Rochester will support him. Mr. Lewis will have the support of Jacob Livingston, chairman of the executive committee of the Republican County Committee, and of Kings to his men assert, and William L. Ward, of Westchester; William Barnes, of Albany; Senator James W. Wadsworth, of Genesee; Congressman Luther W. Mott, of Oswego, are all believed to be in favor of the Attorney General and against Governor Whitman.

When Boom Started
It is a matter of political history in Rochester, Mr. Lewis's home, that at a dinner given in his honor at the Rochester Club a year ago last winter, when he was elected Attorney General, by the Legislature, his boom for Governor was started, and not even the hostility of George W. Aldridge, the boss of the Republican organization in Monroe county, has been sufficient to deter Mr. Lewis from trying to realize his desire to become Governor. Meanwhile, the politicians are watching Mr. Bennett. He went on record in The Tribune last winter as saying that there would be a candidate in the Republican primaries against Governor Whitman, and last week he announced that the Attorney General was a "hand-picked" candidate and would not meet the demand of the independent and progressive Republicans. Failing to induce Justice Cropper to run, the friends of Mr. Bennett believe that he will make good his prediction by announcing himself as a candidate against Whitman.

Lewis Denies Charge He Opposed Suffrage

Attorney General Says He Prepared Walsh Resolution in 1916

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)
ALBANY, May 20.—Attorney General Merton E. Lewis, who is Governor Whitman's principal opponent in the race for the Republican nomination for Governor, to-night answered the accusation that he is against woman suffrage by declaring he was responsible for the introduction of a proposed amendment to the constitution giving men and women who can read, write and speak English the right of suffrage. "I prepared and Assemblyman Walsh, of Albany County," he said, "introduced at my request, and Governor Whitman's principal opponent in the race for the Republican nomination for Governor, to-night answered the accusation that he is against woman suffrage by declaring he was responsible for the introduction of a proposed amendment to the constitution giving men and women who can read, write and speak English the right of suffrage. "I prepared and Assemblyman Walsh, of Albany County," he said, "introduced at my request, and Governor Whitman's principal opponent in the race for the Republican nomination for Governor, to-night answered the accusation that he is against woman suffrage by declaring he was responsible for the introduction of a proposed amendment to the constitution giving men and women who can read, write and speak English the right of suffrage. "I prepared and Assemblyman Walsh, of Albany County," he said, "introduced at my request, and Governor Whitman's principal opponent in the race for the Republican nomination for Governor, to-night answered the accusation that he is against woman suffrage by declaring he was responsible for the introduction of a proposed amendment to the constitution giving men and women who can read, write and speak English the right of suffrage."

To Test Unsinkable Safe

Inventor to Get Inside and Be Dropped Into Bay

The unsinkable ship's safe accompanied by its inventor, Signor Menotti Nanni, of Chicago, will make its first public appearance in this port off the Statue of Liberty on June 2. Permission to drop this unsinkable three-ton creation from a tug to the depths of the harbor was granted to Nanni yesterday by Captain George L. Carden, of the Coast Guard Service. According to Nanni the safe is automatically released when the ship goes down and floats indefinitely. Nanni has promised to get into the safe on June 2 and be cast with it from the deck of a tug into the water.

Many Noted Artists to Appear At Italian Red Cross Concert



MRS. HARRY PAYNE WHITNEY



MISS FLORA PAYNE WHITNEY

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney and Captain Francesco Mario Guardabassi, of the Italian army, a former opera singer, are in charge of the arrangements for the Italian Red Cross. Miss Flora Payne Whitney is the daughter of Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney. After the Metropolitan Opera House orchestra has played the Italian Royal March, Charles E. Hughes will introduce Count Macchi de Cellere, the Italian Ambassador, who will speak on Italy's part in the war. Henry P. Davison, who was invited to speak,

First Emergency Draft Quota Off To Fort Slocum

1,034 Answer Sudden Summons and Depart Amid Fervent Farewells

The first quota of the 5,000 selected men called into service from the New York district under the War Department's recent emergency order, left for Fort Slocum yesterday. Their leaving-taking was among the most cheerful and striking of the war.

Many of the men had only twenty-four hours notice, but they proved their ability to meet a sudden call to the colors with nonchalance and enthusiasm, and their relatives proved that they could face a sudden parting with cheers rather than tears, showing the effect of the growth of the war spirit.

The men sent to Fort Slocum yesterday numbered 1,034. The first contingent numbered 675 and the second 359.

"Both the leavetakings were splendid," a draft official remarked yesterday. "The men and their relatives never blinked an eyelash."

The men were called from throughout the greater city. The emergency order was sent out last Thursday, but by reason of absence from the city or other causes, many had much shorter notice than that, and some only a scant twenty-four hours. Those who left at the Grand Central represented quotas from local boards 23 to 32, and those who left by the Harlem River route were from local boards 1 to 23. The men from draft boards 23, 24, 25 and 26 came from Brooklyn in automobiles, as did men from board No. 32. Forty cars conveying the twenty-eight men from the latter borough and their friends. Father Peter Schroeder and his Sacred Heart boys' band accompanied them. Crowds at the Grand Central Station gave the men a big ovation when they appeared.

The Bronx gave a hearty send-off to men from eighteen of the twenty-two draft boards of that borough. They were cheered throughout their line of march. The contingent that left via the Harlem River marched from the headquarters of the various boards, escorted by rifle and drum corps. There were some absentees in yesterday's quota, but in the majority of cases this is attributed to the short notice given.

Martin Conboy, director of the draft for New York City, sent out the following notice to all local boards yesterday: "An imperative call requires immediate attention. Accountants and statisticians with engineering experience who are college men, are wanted at once. The opportunities are open to registrants qualified for special or limited military service. Registrants must be native-born Americans of native-born parents. This office must be able to report number available to Washington Tuesday."

Take 91 Bodies From Pittsburgh Ruins

PITTSBURGH, May 20.—Ninety-one bodies had been taken from the ruins of the Etna Chemical Company's plant at Oakdale, near here, up to early to-night, the total representing the "known dead" as a result of the terrific explosion which wrecked the plant last Saturday. Twenty-eight of the charred bodies were removed from the debris during the day by searchers, who have been working in shifts since the disaster occurred. Complications to-day show ninety-four persons in Pittsburgh hospitals, and company officials say that 190 members of the working force of the plant are yet unaccounted for.

will be unable to do so. There will be an address by Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War.

Giulio Gatti-Casazza, who is arranging the programme, announces that Caruso, Scotti, Amato, Mme. Alda, Miss Kathleen Howard and Miss Anna Case are to be the artists, while, in addition to Moranzoni, Gennaro Papi and Giulio Setti are to be the conductors. Both the Metropolitan Opera House chorus and orchestra will be employed.

Mrs. Charles Evans Hughes, Mrs. Hamilton Holt, Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson, Mrs. Lindsay Russell and Mrs. William Guggenheim are announced as additions to the patronesses, who are headed by Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney.

March Will Be Chief of Staff and A Full General

Acting Army Head Is Now Restricted Because of Rank

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)
WASHINGTON, May 20.—Major General Peyton C. March, acting chief of staff, will be nominated a full general and named chief of staff this week by President Wilson, it was announced to-day at the War Department.

At the same time General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff and American representative at the Versailles Supreme War Council, who reverts to the rank of major general when relieved as chief of staff, will be provided for in legislation which will enable him to retain the rank of general by brevet. He is to remain in France as the American representative on the War Council.

The elevation of General March to chief of staff and full general will remove the restrictions which he encountered as acting chief of staff by reason of other major generals outranking him. His new rank, coupled as it is with the title of chief of staff, will make him senior to General Pershing, commander of the overseas forces.

Victory for General March
Army men generally interpret the contemplated change as a victory for General March, whose administration under the title of acting chief of staff has in several instances resulted in delays and embarrassments due to others outranking him. Under the law the nation can have only two full generals—the commander of the American expeditionary forces and the chief of staff. Upon his retirement, account of age recently General Bliss was continued as chief of staff, so he could get the four stars and stand on a footing of equality with other delegates at the Versailles session. His appointment as brevet general will in no wise impair his standing there, the title being a temporary one, with a footing equivalent to a full general. The nation has had only a handful of full generals, and the rank of brevet general is a relic of the Civil War.

Recognize Service of Bliss
Commenting on the new rank to be given General Bliss, Secretary of War Baker said to-day: "If an army President will be entirely willing to have it said that General Bliss's nomination is the merited recognition of service for a long period of the very greatest value and most conspicuous service now in the actual theatre of war."

Coincident with the announcement of the elevation of General March was stated at the department that the rank of lieutenant general is likely to be created soon to provide proper rating for officers who are to be named as corps commanders with the overseas forces. While it was the original intention of the department to form army corps in France as quickly as sufficient full divisions were at the disposal of General Pershing, the new scheme of brigading troops with the British and French has made this plan impracticable.

Pershing Studying Corps Plans
Commenting on the prospect of forming army corps, Secretary Baker to-day said: "The formation of army corps will rest entirely with General Pershing. The original plan in this connection was to have six divisions as they went over formed into a corps. General Pershing is restudying that question, and what he will make we do not know, but when he does form an army corps on the other side he will in all likelihood assign as corps commander a division commander, a major general. The question of promoting the major general as corps commander of the rank of lieutenant general will not be taken up until General Pershing makes his recommendation."

National Party to Oppose Fusion at Congress Elections

Will Fight Unity League Plan to Re-elect Present Representatives

Attack Their Records

Will Have Candidates of Their Own in More Than a Dozen States

Denouncing the members of Congress as "office holding politicians, whose apathy and lack of initiative have been notorious throughout Mr. Wilson's administration," J. A. H. Hopkins, chairman of the executive committee of the National party, yesterday announced that his party would conduct a nationwide campaign in opposition to any proposed fusion of Republican and Democratic interests at the coming Congressional elections. He also announced that the National party will have candidates in more than a dozen states.

Mr. Hopkins's statement was directed chiefly against the efforts of the National Unity League and the statements of Elihu Root that the present members of Congress, whose loyalty has been tested, should be returned to office. Mr. Hopkins, speaking officially for his party, asserts that the proposed fusion is "an insult to the intelligence of the American people" and "a subterfuge to return to office Congressmen who are afraid to stand upon record of their achievements before their own constituents."

Has Candidates Ready
He asserts that the National party already has prepared to put candidates in the field in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, California and the Northwestern states.

The National party was organized in Chicago last March, and its members include many Socialists and other radical leaders who stand for vigorous prosecution of the war. Its platform calls for the nationalization of public utilities, support of the war program, legislation in the interest of labor, open diplomacy, freedom of the seas and steps for permanent peace after the war.

The National Unity League recently was organized in Washington to effect a fusion of Republican and Democratic interests for the reelection of members of Congress.

Mr. Hopkins in his statement says in part:

Attacks Congressmen
"With notable exceptions, the majority of the members of Congress have shown no initiative, utter incapability of giving the President the intelligent assistance vitally necessary at this critical period. The responsibility for this rests upon Republicans and Democrats alike. "Any combination of the reactionary forces of the old parties for the purpose of perpetuating the present Congress is a betrayal of the trust of the American people. We are earnestly desirous of seeing the war brought to a successful conclusion. The present plan is only a substitute for the original plan, which was to pass the elections untroubled."

"Far from being a contest between loyalty and disloyalty, it will be a struggle between the inefficiency of office-holding politicians and the desire of the American people to fill their ranks with intelligent and patriotic officials whose only thought is for their country."

The New York headquarters of the party are at 15 East 40th street. David C. Coates, the national chairman, maintains his offices in Chicago.

O'Brien May Direct Whitman's Campaign

Governor Confers With Plattsburg Man on Situation in State

John F. O'Brien, of Plattsburg, probably will be chosen as the real manager of the Whitman campaign both in the primaries and afterwards if the Governor wins in the primaries. The Governor had a conference with Mr. O'Brien yesterday before departing for Albany, and as a result Mr. O'Brien is expected soon to get his private business affairs in shape so that he can give practically all of his time to the Whitman primary campaign. The idea of having a committee to run the state campaign has not been entirely abandoned, but it is understood that the Governor inclines to the view that there should be a head to the committee. John F. O'Brien is one of the veteran political leaders of the state. He served as an Assemblyman from Clinton County and in 1908 President Roosevelt appointed him Collector of the Port of Plattsburg. He served for four years as Secretary of State. He told the Governor that Clinton County would give him a very large vote in the primaries. Plattsburg was dry in the local option elections, and this fact, in the judgment of Mr. O'Brien, gives the Governor an advantage in the primaries.

Internment Asked For Hans Merx

CHICAGO, May 20.—A warrant for the internment of Hans Merx, musical director of the Chicago Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic church, has been asked by Charles F. Clynne, United States District Attorney. Mr. Clynne said the request was based upon Germanism and that Mr. Merx had been investigated by the Department of Justice in Brooklyn prior to his coming to Chicago.

Hans Merx is well known in Brooklyn. He was choirmaster and organist of the Queen of All Saints' Roman Catholic Church, Vanderbilt and Lafayette Avenue, until 1916. Monsignor James J. Coan, chancellor of the Brooklyn diocese and rector of the church, said last night that to the best of his recollection Merx came to this country from Germany at the request of Bishop Mundelein, of Chicago, who was formerly rector of the Church of Queen of All Saints. The organist had a contract which Monsignor Coan refused to renew on its expiration two years ago.

His reasons, Monsignor Coan said, were based largely on the resentment of his parishioners over an interview Merx had given out shortly after the beginning of the war which was disparaging to the Allies. In addition, Monsignor Coan said, the fact that Merx had been in Germany only a short time before and that he had been a member of the German army, made it seem undesirable to him to retain him. As soon as it was definitely settled that his contract was not to be renewed, Monsignor Coan said, he told him he had decided to go to Chicago anyway so it did not matter.

Copeland Announces Plans for Health Week

City to Get Thorough Housecleaning in Preparation for Hot Months

Health week, during which New York is to give itself a thorough housecleaning and generally prepare for the hot months just ahead, starts next Sunday. Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Health Commissioner, announced yesterday his department had completed plans for the week, and that with the exception of Thursday, Decoration Day, special drives would feature each day.

The week's schedule in brief is as follows: Sunday: Church Day—Clergymen will be asked to address their parishioners on the subject of cleanliness and its need to preserve health.

Monday: School Day—Teachers will instruct pupils on the need of cleanliness.

Tuesday: Transportation Day—Officials of roads, ferries and other transportation lines will be asked to instruct their employees in modern methods of preserving cleanliness on cars, boats and trains.

Wednesday: Correction Day—Police Department will be asked to pay particular attention on this day to enforcing Health Department ordinances.

Thursday: Street Day—Tenement House and Street Cleaning departments will be asked to make extra drive against rubbish throughout entire twenty-four hours of the day.

Saturday: Day—Every one will be asked to devote day to swatting the fly.

Frequent conferences, Dr. Copeland announced, would be held during the week to discuss the milk question and to decide what plans are feasible for improving the sanitary conditions of the laboring classes.

Ten Steel Ships Turned Over to U. S. Last Week

Fourteen, Two Steel and Twelve Wood, Launched in Same Period

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Ten steel ships of 58,850 aggregate tonnage were completed and delivered to the Emergency Fleet Corporation last week, and fourteen others, some wood and some steel, of 43,000 tons, were launched.

On Saturday four wooden ships left the ways, the third time during the present month when four vessels of this type were launched in a single day. The total number of wooden ships launched in May to date is twenty-two.

Four Larger Than 8,000 Tons
The completed ships included eight requisitioned and two built on contract. The largest of them were 8,800 tons or larger. They were delivered at San Francisco, Chester, Penn.; Seattle (two), Ecorse, Mich.; Camden, N. J.; Mantowoc, Wis.; Ashtabula, Ohio; Long Beach Cal.; and Cleveland.

Two of the vessels launched were steel and twelve were wood. Nine of them were launched on the Pacific Coast, three on the lakes and one each on the Atlantic and Gulf.

Hulls are being put into the water now faster than machinery can be obtained to equip them. It was learned to-day that the Shipping Board has acceded to the Navy Department's refusal to surrender turbines ordered for destroyers for use in transports. The transports, it will be commissioned, but their speed will be reduced by lack of the turbines.

Conditions in South Improve
Chairman Hurley to-day wrote Mayor Thompson of Chicago asking him to see what can be done to expedite the movement of vessels built on the lakes which will go to Chicago to load war material for the trip to the ocean.

Drawbridges in Chicago are allowed to be open only at certain hours, which it is feared may delay the vessels.

Lumber and labor conditions in the South have improved so much since January that Southern shipyards soon will be able to begin working night shifts, according to a report made to-day to the Emergency Fleet Corporation by John H. Kirby, who has been making a survey of conditions in the South.

New York Central Details Plan for Spending 70 Millions

Appropriation Allowed by McAdoo Does Not Cover Affiliated Lines

The detailed budget of the New York Central Railroad Company, covering the \$70,672,087 of capital expenditure authorized by the national railroad administration was made available for the inspection of the public yesterday in the Grand Central Terminal. The appropriation for capital expenditure is for the New York Central Railroad Company proper. It does not include the dozen affiliated companies that make up the New York Central lines. For the entire system the authorized capital expenditures are \$163,000,000.

The budget is divided as follows: For additions and betterments, \$32,428,693; for equipment, \$38,168,394; for other expenditures, \$7,000,000.

The authorized expenditures for equipment follow: Locomotives—Contracted for, 265, \$87,311,800; not authorized but necessary in 1918, \$9,340,400.

Freight cars—Contracted for, \$265,634; not authorized but necessary in 1918, \$8,800,000.

Passenger cars—Contracted for, \$3,112,808; not authorized but necessary in 1918, \$2,274,000.

Marine equipment—Contracted for, none; not authorized but necessary in 1918, \$1,260,000.

Other equipment—Contracted for, \$22,200; not authorized but necessary in 1918, \$1,967,000.

Betterments to equipment—Locomotives, \$794,529; freight cars, \$5,069,741; passenger cars, \$370,987. Of this total for betterments to equipment, \$38,640,887 is to be charged to operating expenses and the remainder to investment account.

Nine Schoolboys Held, Accused of Series of Thefts

Mutual Accusations Disclose Ingenious Scheme for Beating Shopkeepers.

Organization Clever Proprietors Lured From Stores by Telephone Calls and Cash Drawers Looted

The fidgeting fifteen minutes preceding dismissal yesterday in Grade 7 B in Public School 132, at 182d Street and Wadsworth Avenue, were broken by the entrance of two solidly built men. They were Detectives Phalen and Hoffman, of the 4th branch. After a whispered conversation with them, the teacher called the names of nine boys, who, she said, were excused for the rest of the session. Grade 7 B relapsed into somnolent restiveness, wondering vaguely why fortune had chosen only nine of their number for her favors.

According to the police and the stories they say the boys themselves told, the nine favorites of fortune are in for a change of luck. The youngsters, the eldest of whom is fourteen and the youngest thirteen years old, are said to have swindled in the last two months more Washington Heights shopkeepers than they could remember offhand. For weeks, it is said, not a boyish whim from canoes to air rifles went ungratified, their drives for funds being uniformly successful.

Ordinarily, it is alleged, shopkeepers were their victims, but from mutual accusations that followed the examination of the boys the police are confident that the Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, at Fort Washington Avenue and 178th Street, yielded \$19. That windfall, however, is believed to be more or less accidental, one of the boys having passed the plate at church and another having helped him count the collection.

Their alleged system, one which puzzled the police for weeks, was almost unbeatable. Going to a shop in the vicinity of that owned by the prospective and involuntary contributor to their war chest, one of the boys would telephone to the store, asking him, asking that he be called to the telephone, as the message was important and something seemed to be wrong with the wire.

When the victim had been summoned and was patiently waiting for "long distance," another boy, it is said, would post himself as a lookout, while a third entered the deserted shop and took a few large bills from the cash register—not enough to alter the appearance of the drawer to a casual glance or interfere with change-making. Already eight complaints have been listed and more are expected to come in Children's Court. The prisoners, who were released on bail, are: August Letcher, fourteen years old,

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854 West 181st Street; Richard Lattin, thirteen, 444 West 184th Street; Herbert Cronk, fourteen, 830 180th Street; Walter Feil, fourteen, 708 West 180th Street; Henry Bask, fourteen, 509 West 185th Street; Edward Phalen, fourteen, 18 Northern Avenue; Melvin Friend, thirteen, 64 Bond Avenue, Rockaway Beach; Paul Butler, fourteen, 605 West 181st Street, and Howard Jones, fourteen, 454 Fort Washington Avenue.

Five Bodies Picked Up Off Coast of Jersey

Woman and Four Men May Have Been City of Athens Victims

GLOUCESTER, Mass., May 20.—The bodies of four men and one woman, believed to have lost their lives when the Savannah Line steamer City of Athens was sunk by a collision with a French cruiser on May 1, were picked up off the New Jersey coast last Tuesday and Wednesday by four Gloucester schooners which returned here to-night.

On the body of a man was a passbook of the Citizens' Bank of Savannah made out to Nicholas Vassas. Papers from the Greek Consul in Boston also were found in the pocket of a coat which was the only garment on the body. The schooner Avalon, Captain Charles Maguire, picked up the body of the woman. The only means of identification was a diamond ring, inscribed "E. V. C. to A. H. S. (or P.)." It was thought one of the bodies would be identified by a membership card of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The man appeared to have been twenty-five years of age, and from the papers found in his pockets was a chemist.

Another body was that of a man twenty-eight or thirty years of age, and the fifth body was that of a negro, who was thought to have been one of the stewards. Owing to the condition of the bodies they were wrapped in sheets after examination, weighted and consigned once more to the deep, the burial service of the sea being read by the captains of the vessels. All possible means of identification were first removed. The City of Athens was rammed and sunk by a French cruiser off the coast of Delaware May 1. Thirty-three passengers and the same number of the crew were picked up by boats from the warship.

Five women were among those who lost their lives. Their initials do not agree with those engraved on the ring found on one of the bodies.

Gunman Gets 20 Years

Pellegrino Morano Sentenced for Killing 2 Brooklyn Men

Pellegrino Morano, proprietor of the Santa Lucia Hotel at Coney Island, and leader of a gang of gunmen, was sentenced to a term of from twenty years to life in Sing Sing yesterday by Judge Van Sicken in the criminal branch of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn. He was convicted last week of the killing last September of Charles Umbracelo and James Morello, members of a rival gang.

Alessandro Vollero, found guilty of the actual murder of the two men, is awaiting electrocution in Sing Sing. The quarrel that caused the deaths is said to have arisen over the price of artichokes in which Morano was a dealer.

Grand Jury Hears Charges Against Conductorettes

Hugging and Kissing on B. R. T. Cars and in Barns Are Alleged

The investigation into the alleged immoral conditions said to surround the B. R. T. car barns since the advent of conductorettes came up before the Kings County Grand Jury yesterday. Twelve witnesses were called, many of them men in uniform. Just what took place in the grand jury room, District Attorney Harry Lewis, who is conducting the inquiry, would not disclose. He said, however, conditions were shown to need immediate attention and should be abated as soon as possible. It was learned from unofficial sources that much of the testimony showed that conductors and conductorettes indulged in profanity and in hugging and kissing in the barns, on the cars and in the streets adjoining the barns. Miss Isabel Lilly, a woman inspector of the company, who was its first conductor, ette, is known to have testified in defense of her sister employees.

District Attorney Lewis intimated that the conditions alleged were due to a very small number of the women, and that it is his purpose to weed out the good from the bad, but not to interfere with the high-minded woman who is working to make a living. T. S. Williams, president of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, would not comment on the investigation, but was present when William Siebert, superintendent of transportation, made the following statement: "We are doing everything in our power to surround our women employees with the best influences, physical and moral. We have fitted up rest rooms, where women are employed, with a responsible matron in charge. We feel conditions have been greatly exaggerated, but will give the District Attorney our fullest cooperation in his investigation."